or immediately after the arrest be permitted to arrest a female person for lawful reasons at any time of the day or night depending on the circumstances of the case even without the presence of a lady constable.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in Rajya Sabha has *inter alia*, a proposal to add a new sub-section (4) to section 46 Cr. P.C. to prohibit arrest of a women after sunset and before sunrise except in unavoidable circumstances.

Death penalty for rapists

*238. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide death as one of the penalties for the offence of rape, is still under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) the Rape Laws have exhaustively been reviewed by the Law Commission of India which has recommended amendments to the Procedural and Penal laws. Death as a sentence for rape has not been recommended. Therefore, the Government has deferred its proposal for amending the Indian Penal Code to provide death as one of penalties for the offence of rape.

The Malimath Committee, which submitted its report on reforming the Criminal Justice System, also expressed themselves against death sentence for the offence of rape.

Scheme for revival of National Textile Corporation mills

†*239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme worth Rs. 3,383 crores has been worked out for the revival of certain mills of the National Textile Corporation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, when the scheme was accorded final approval; whether it is also a fact that the said amount was planned to be mobilized by the sale of surplus plots of land under the textiles mills; and

(c) if so, the amount mobilized under the scheme and whether it is also a fact that Government have already spent Rs. 750 crores in connection with this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Rehabilitation Schemes have been sanctioned by Government/BIFR for NTC subsidiary companies at a total cost of Rs. 3937 crores (approx.)

(b) The dates on which these schemes have been sanctioned by BIFR/Government are as follows:

NTC subsidiary	Date of sanction
APKKM	7.2.2002
DPR	22.2.2002
GUJ	19.2.2002
MN	25.7.2002
MP	12.2.2002
SM	25.7.2002
TNP	18.12.2001
UP	5.2.2002
WBABO	15.2.2002

Much of the cost of rehabilitation is to be generated through sale of surplus assets of the mills.

(c) So far, an amount of Rs. 400 Cr. has been realized from sale of surplus assets. However, to take the scheme forward, Government has given permission to mobilize Rs. 1,250 Cr. through Government guaranteed NTC Bonds. This amount has been mobilized and used for giving VRS to 30,153 workers in 61 mills proposed for closure.